

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the above-identified patent application, in light of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. The presently pending claims are claims 1-20. Claims 1, 16, 17, and 18 have been amended.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 9, 11 and 16-18 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,246,320 to Monroe (Monroe) in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,704,845 to Ord (Ord). The Examiner stated that Monroe discloses substantially all claimed elements for alerting a cockpit crew of a dangerous situation. The Examiner also stated that Monroe fails to specify that the mobile communications units will be carried by personnel within the aircraft during flight and will be activated by them to signal a dangerous passenger situation to the cockpit crew. In addition, the Examiner also stated that Monroe also fails to specify that the mobile communication units will transmit a "plurality of selectable signals, the selectable signal providing specific information on the dangerous situation within the cabin." The Examiner stated that Ord teaches that it is known to have crew members in the cabin of an aircraft in flight activate (i.e. chose and press a particular button) a warning system which sends selectable signals to the cockpit. Furthermore, the Examiner stated to employ the teachings of Ord and have personnel on the plane use the mobile units to send a selectable signal indicating a particular security problem, which will be transmitted to the cockpit display of Monroe is considered to have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art.

In response, the Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 16 to better differentiate Applicant's invention from Monroe and Ord. Neither Monroe or Ord teach or suggest utilizing a

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plurality of fobs which receive an alert signal when one of the fobs sends a selected signal to the cockpit. Although Monroe discloses sending a signal "to all units" of the system, the signal is merely a signal to all the fixed components of the system disclosed in Monroe. However, these units are not portable devices held by aircrew members. Rather, Monroe merely teaches providing an alert to all the fixed components of the security system (e.g., other sensors, cameras). There is not any mention of a portable communication device which receives such an alert signal. Monroe does not teach or suggest sending an alert signal to fobs held by aircrew members in an aircraft to alert the aircrew members of a dangerous situation. The Applicant's invention, on the other hand, is specifically directed at alerting individuals holding portable fobs in an aircraft of the dangerous situation. Monroe provides a security system which does not teach or suggest alerting a plurality of individuals within an aircraft of a threat. In addition, Ord does not teach or suggest any portable communication devices (fobs) or the alert of the devices to provide an alert to all the aircrew members of a dangerous situation. Monroe and Ord also do not teach or suggest a portable device capable of transmitting a plurality of signals selectable by a person where each selectable signal provides specific information on the dangerous situation within the cabin area.

Claims 2-6, and 9 depend from independent claim 1 and recite additional limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 1. In addition, claims 15-18 depend from independent claim 16 and recite additional limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 16. Therefore, the withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of claims 1-6, 9, 11 and 16-18 is respectfully requested.

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The Examiner rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Monroe and Ord and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,272,359 to Kivela et al. (Kivela). In response, the Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to better differentiate Applicant's invention from Monroe, Ord, and Kivela. Claim 10 depends from independent claim 1 and recites additional limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 1. As discussed above, none of the cited references teach or suggest a portable device capable of transmitting a plurality of signals selectable by a person where each selectable signal provides specific information on the dangerous situation within the cabin area. Therefore, the withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of claim 10 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 12-15 under 35 U.S.C. 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Monroe and Ord and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,703,946 to Flick (Flick). In response, the Applicant respectfully disagrees. None of the cited references teach or suggest a portable device capable of transmitting a plurality of signals selectable by a person where each selectable signal provides specific information on the dangerous situation within the cabin area. Therefore, the withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of claims 12-15 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner also rejected claims 1-20 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-17 of U.S. Patent No. 6,676,078 in view of Monroe. The Examiner stated that to employ the teachings of Monroe on the system of U.S. Patent No. 6,676,078 and have communication between all the mobile units is considered to have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art.

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In response, the Applicant is submitting a terminal disclaimer to obviate a double patenting rejection over the prior patent. Therefore, the withdrawal of the rejection and the allowance of claims 1-20 is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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